



HOW HOSPITALS JOIN THE NEW DRUG ABUSE WARNING NETWORK (DAWN)

Fact Sheet #2

June 2004

WHAT

DAWN is a public health surveillance system that collects data on drug related visits to hospital EDs and on drug-related deaths reported by medical examiners and coroners (ME/Cs). Since 2003, DAWN has been tracking *all* types of drug-related ED visits and deaths. In addition to illegal drug use, DAWN collects cases related to **adverse reactions** to OTC and prescription medications, **overmedication**, **accidental ingestions**, **malicious poisonings**, **suicide attempts**, and **underage alcohol use**.

WHERE

Data collection is currently conducted in hospitals across the entire U.S. with concentrations in 22 metropolitan areas; and ME/C jurisdictions are located in the same metropolitan areas and in selected States.

WHO

Hospitals are selected by sampling. Eligible hospitals are non-federal, acute care facilities with 24-hour emergency departments. Hospitals represent themselves and others like them in their metropolitan area and the Nation. ME/C offices are not sampled; they are chosen based on their metropolitan area and State.

WHY

Payments for participation—Annual access payment is paid to each ED; payments also available for EDs who use their own staff to report data. **Data on demand—DAWN LIVE!** a secure Internet-based system provides member hospitals immediate access to their own data. Authorized staff can use DAWN LIVE! to track the patterns of drug-related cases seen in the ED, the drugs involved, and the patients affected. This information can be used to increase staff awareness and allocate resources to respond to changing caseloads. **Technical support**—DAWN supplies ongoing training, equipment, and user assistance.

HOW

All ED charts are reviewed retrospectively to identify DAWN cases. A DAWN case is every ED visit related to drug use.

Reporting: DAWN staff work with each hospital to customize the most convenient and efficient reporting approach

- **Westat Central Reporter.** For hospitals with electronic medical records that can be accessed remotely, Westat can review charts and submit DAWN cases at its secure data center in Maryland. Minimal disruption.
- **Westat Field Reporter.** With hospital's approval, Westat provides a person to review charts and submit DAWN cases on-site. Westat hires, supervises, and pays these reporters directly.
- **Hospital After-Hours Staff Reporter.** Hospital staff work for DAWN during off-duty hours. Westat pays the Reporter based on the volume of charts reviewed and DAWN cases submitted.
- **Hospital Staff Reporter.** Hospital staff collect DAWN data on hospital time. This option works best when staff are already reviewing every record for billing or quality assurance. Westat pays the hospital based on the volume of charts reviewed and DAWN cases submitted.

Participation agreement. The participation agreement outlines the responsibilities of the ED and Westat (the DAWN Operations Contractor) in regard to the data collection protocol, privacy and confidentiality, access payments, and staff designated to access the DAWN LIVE! system. An authorized ED representative signs the agreement.

For more information: Questions can be directed to the Facility Relations staff at Westat at **800-FYI-DAWN**. Each hospital ED will also have a Facility Liaison (FL) assigned to be its local DAWN representative. DAWN information is available in publications and online on the website at **<http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>**.